

Moor's End (Jared Coffin House)  
19 Pleasant Street  
Nantucket  
Nantucket County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-917

HABS  
MASS  
10-NANT  
38-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

## MOOR'S END (JARED COFFIN HOUSE)

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Location: No. 19 Pleasant Street (west side of Pleasant Street at corner of Mill Street), Nantucket, Massachusetts. Also known as the Jared Coffin House.

Present Owner: Mrs. Louis Anderson Melhado

Present Occupant: Mrs. Melhado

Present Use: Seasonal occupancy

Brief Statement of Significance: A large, elegant brick house built for a ship-owner in the prosperous days of the whaling industry on Nantucket.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

1828 and 1829 -- Jared Coffin bought land.  
1829 to 1834 -- The house was built for Coffin.  
1851 -- Reuben Hallet bought property.  
1867 -- Lloyd Minturn purchased from heirs of Reuben Hallet.  
1873 -- Jared Gardner bought property at auction for \$2,350.  
1899 -- Henry B. Williams bought from heirs of Jared Gardner. Williams bought additional land, the homestead of Prince Gardner on corner of Pleasant Street and Angora Way (where the gardens are now situated).  
1911 -- William Flanagan bought property.  
1926 -- Edward F. Sanderson owned and Land Courted the property, which he then sold to Colonel Robert W. Stewart.  
1945 to date -- Louise Anderson Melhado, owner.  
(Abstract, Records Registry  
Deeds, Nantucket, Massachusetts)

2. Date of erection: Jared Coffin bought three parcels of adjoining land on Pleasant Street between September, 1828 and July 1829. It has been fairly well established that he was living in the house in 1834, so the date of erection must have been between 1829 and 1834.  
(Abstract, Records Registry Deeds, Nantucket.)

Note: Worth in Nantucket Lands and Land Owners disagrees with other local historians by claiming that the house was built between 1835 and 1840.

3. Architect: None
  4. Original plans, construction, etc.: No plans known.
  5. Alterations and additions: During various ownerships the house acquired many additions as well as the large walled garden. Edward F. Sanderson, in consultation with R. T. Haines Halsey, creator of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum, and Fiske Kimball, architect, with Erling H. Pedersen in direct architectural supervision, restored the house between 1926 and 1928.
- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Jared Coffin, a mariner and ship-builder, made a fortune in whale-oil, owning the majority of shares in the whale-ships, Montano, Daniel Webster and Catherine. He was Representative in the General Court and one of the Trustees of Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin's Lancasterian School in Nantucket. Jared Coffin built a second brick house at Center and Broad Streets. He moved away from Nantucket in 1846.

A later owner of Moor's End, Jared Gardner, was responsible for saving Nantucket's now famous Old Mill.

The property was called "Moor's End" because it was on the outskirts of the town at the time it was built.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views:
  - a. The Architectural Record, Sept., 1927. (exterior and interior views and details of restoration)
  - b. Champion Monographs, April 26, 1921. (side view)
  - c. Eberman, Edwin. Nantucket Sketchbook. Nantucket: S. F. Baker, 1946. (drawing)
2. Restoration plans: There are eight sheets of drawings by Fiske Kimball at the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Boston. Copies are in the possession of the Nantucket Historical Association.
3. Bibliography:

Fowlkes, George Allen. A Mirror of Nantucket, an architectural history of the Island, 1686-1850. New Jersey, 1959.

Hamblin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. New York: Oxford University Press, 1944.

Kimball, Fiske. The Architectural Record. September, 1927. (detailed description of restoration)

Worth, Henry Barnard. Nantucket Land and Landowners. Nantucket: Nantucket Historical Association Bulletin, 1928, Vol. 2, Bull. 1 & 7.

Prepared by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin  
Nantucket, Massachusetts  
February, 1966

## PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey project on Nantucket, Massachusetts. This is part of a continuing HABS comprehensive survey of the early architecture and urban design of Nantucket financed by a grant from the Nantucket Historical Trust.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Historical information was provided by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin of Nantucket, Massachusetts. Photographs are by Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The material was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Mrs. Constance Werner Ramirez, July 1971.